



Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

May 2005

Volume 8; Issue 3

"Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, "She doesn't have what it takes"; they will say, "Women don't have what it takes."

Clare Boothe Luce
(American Diplomat and Playwright)

In This Issue:

- Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics
- Tribal Resource Directory
- Scholarships Available to High School Students
- Health Care for Women with Disabilities
- ADDY Awards
- Abuse of Women with Disabilities
- Organ Donation
- \$7.6 Million for Community Treatment and Service Center
- Health Care Extended to More Areas
- Child Support Demonstrations Approved

Women with Disabilities

American women today have many roles and are busy juggling families, friends, and careers. Did you know that 28 million of these women are living with disabilities? Disabilities are physical and mental limitations that are associated with a range of health problems. The Department of Justice defines disability as:

1. any physiological disorder, or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitor-urinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine; or
2. any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

In general, the severity of a disability is described in terms of how much it limits daily activities. As the number of older Americans is steadily rising, so is the number of those living with a disability. But, women are more likely than men to be limited in the amount or kind of major activity they can perform.

Some of the challenges faced by women with disabilities include:

- * physical barriers (poor access to enter buildings, a lack of transportation and support services to run errands, etc.)
- * financial barriers (having lower wage jobs and no health insurance)
- * lack of reliable health information and services that address their needs.

Taken From: 4woman.gov

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

An estimated 906,000 children across the country were victims of abuse or neglect in 2003 according to national data released on April 1, 2005 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The statistics indicate that about 12.4 out of every 1,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect, a rate comparable to the previous year's victimization rate of 12.3 out of 1,000 children.

The statistics released, are based on information collected through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. The data show that child protective service agencies received about 2.9 million reports of possible maltreatment in 2003. Of the 906,000 substantiated cases of maltreatment of children, the majority involved cases of neglect. For 2003, an estimated 1,500 children died due to child abuse or neglect, more than three-quarters of them less than four years of age.

The full report, "Child Maltreatment 2003" is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cmreports.htm>. The Community Resource Packet for child abuse prevention is available at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/index.cfm>.

\$50 Million for Energy Aid

The Department of Health & Human Services released an additional \$50 million in emergency funds to be provided to states and territories from the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). The money is designed to help low income families pay their energy bills.

The funds are contingency funds that were made available by the Fiscal Year 2005 omnibus appropriations bill. The \$50 million is over and above the \$1.6 billion states have received so far this season, plus \$100 million in emergency funds last December and an additional \$100 million in January.

Each year, LIEAP helps more than 4.5 million low-income families across America pay the costs of heating their homes in the winter and cooling their homes in the summer.

Individuals interested in applying for LIEAP assistance should contact their local/state LIEAP agency or go to www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/liheap/directry.htm. The directory can help people locate the state office that administers LIEAP in communities across the country.

Total Amount of Funding for Region 6

AR	\$268,726
LA	\$300,293
NM	\$212,459
OK	\$300,424
TX	\$833,998



Healthy Marriage Initiative Grant Announcement

Available financial assistance for demonstration projects to improve child well-being by removing barriers associated with forming and retaining health families and marriage in Native communities. Deadline: June 8, 2005. Additional information at ANA Help Desk @ 877-922-9263.,

Tribal Resource Directory of ACF Programs

The Department of Health & Human Services has released its Tribal Resource Directory of ACF Programs (February 2005). The Directory provides information on programs for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families; the Administration on Developmental Disabilities; the Administration on Native Americans; the Office of Community Services; the Office of Child Support Enforcement; the Office of Family Assistance; and the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

The Directory can be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana>



Scholarships Available to High School Students

\$ 1,000 Presidential Freedom Scholarships are available to honor high school students for outstanding service. Two students from every high school in the country are eligible to receive \$1,000 Presidential Freedom Scholarships in recognition of their outstanding service to the community, the Corporation for National and Community Service announced on March 23, 2005.



The annual college scholarship program, which will award up to 7,800 scholarships, is administered by the Corporation's Learn and Serve America program. Since 1997, over 37,000 students from every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Department of Defense oversees schools been recognized. In addition to the scholarships, students receive a letter of recognition from President Bush and a President's Volunteer Service Award silver pin.

Nominations are open to high school juniors or seniors during the 2004-2005 academic year. The scholarship program provides \$500 of the award, which must be matched with at least \$500 from a community organization, civic group, or business. Students who complete at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a non-profit or faith-based organization, are eligible to receive the scholarship.

The Learn and Serve America Program provides an "on-ramp" to a lifetime of civic engagement for more than one million students each year. The type of learning, called service-learning, improves communities while improving learning.

The final postmark deadline is July 1, 2005. Information and certification forms are available at: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/scholarships/>

Taken From: HHS Office of Disability

Health Care for Women with Disabilities

Women with disabilities continue to be underserved in having access to primary health care services that are appropriate to their needs. While the needs are well documented, what are less understood are the financial and other barriers that may impede provision of and access to health care services for this large and growing segment of the population.

More women with disabilities than without disabilities live in poverty, with incomes below the mean for both women without disabilities and men with disabilities. Many also belong to ethnic or minority groups that are traditionally underserved by the health care system. Native Americans and black women overall have higher disability rates. Twenty-six percent of women with disabilities live in rural areas, where unemployment rates are higher than in other more populous areas, and the annual incomes of women with disabilities are lower on average than the incomes of women without disabilities.

Although people with disabilities consume more health care services than the general population, they still have many unmet needs for care. The standard equipment made available for many routine exams is often not adequate for women with disabilities, who may need specially designed chairs or tables in order to be examined. In addition, women with disabilities often have complex health needs that require care from multiple specialists and social service providers.

Women with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 44 have almost 2.5 times the yearly health care expenditures of women who are not disabled; women between the ages of 45 and 64 have more than three times the average yearly expenditures.

To access this RAND report, see their web site at: <http://www.rand.org/publications/WP/WP139/>.

Taken From: RAND Corporation

Adoption Public Service Advertising Campaign wins ADDY Awards



The Advertising Council, in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and the Adoption Exchange Association, the Collaboration to AdoptUSKids, announced on April 7, 2005 that their public service advertising (PSA) campaign to promote the adoption of children from foster care was honored by the American Advertising Federation. The PSA campaign won four Gold ADDYs including best public service TV campaign.

The ADDY Awards are the advertising industry's largest, most representative and arguably toughest competition, recognizing and rewarding creative excellence in the area of advertising.

*Taken From: HHS News
April 7, 2005*

Abuse of Women with Disabilities

Violence is a serious problem for many women with disabilities. Two small studies by the Center for Research on Women with Disabilities (CROWD) at Baylor College of Medicine found 10 to 13 percent of women with disabilities reporting being abused within the past year, a rate similar to that of women without disabilities. But women with disabilities were more likely to be abused for longer periods of time. They were also abused by a wider variety of people, such as health-care providers, strangers, or attendants, in addition to partners or family members.

Women with disabilities experience the types of physical and mental abuse women in general do. But they also are subject to unique forms of abuse: caretakers were to have withheld medicines and assistive devices, such as wheelchairs or braces, or to have refused to provide essential care.

Women with disabilities need to know about resources that can help them if they are abused. Few women with physical, visual, or hearing disabilities use battered women's services, according to another CROWD study. The study suggested that many shelters may be accessible to women with disabilities but may not reach out to them or offer services such as sign language interpreters or personal care attendants.

*Taken From: Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Women with Disabilities*

Organ Donation

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt highlighted April as National Donate Life Month by calling for greater efforts to educate more Americans on the importance of organ donation.

Secretary Leavitt says the country is reaching record levels of organ donors and organ transplants, but the need for more organ donors remains great. Currently nearly 90,000 Americans are in need of an organ transplant and every 16 minutes, another person joins the waiting list, and thousands more are in need of a tissue transplant.

Last year, more Americans gave the gift of life through organ donation than ever before. Thanks to their generosity, more than 27,000 people received a life-saving or life-enhancing organ transplant - a new national record.

*Taken From: HHS News Release
April 13, 2005*

\$7.6 Million for Community Treatment and Service Center

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the availability of Fiscal Year 2005 funds for community treatment and services centers under the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative. These grants will promote the use of best practices for children and adolescents who have experienced trauma..

Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities. Applications for No. SM-05-006 are available at 1-800-789-2647 or by downloading the application from www.grants.gov. The application due date is May 17, 2005.

Health Care Extended

HHS announced plans to award 105 new health center grants totaling more than \$63 million. These grants will help an estimated 632,000 Americans, including many without health insurance, obtain comprehensive primary health care services.

Awards to 17 of the grantees were announced on April 11, 2005 and will be made in May. The additional 88 grants will be awarded on or about December 1, 2005 as Fiscal Year 2006 funds become available.

These grants continue President Bush's five-year initiative to help communities across the country create or expand access to comprehensive primary health care services. The funding of these grants will add 1,200 new and expanded health center sites and increase the number of people served annually from about 10 million to 16 million by 2006. Since 2002, including these new grants, HHS has funded more than 700 new or expanded health centers and increased the number of patients served annually to 13.2 million (estimate for calendar year 2004).

Health centers deliver preventive and primary care services to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Almost 40 percent of the patients treated at health centers have no insurance coverage, and others have inadequate coverage. Charges for health care services are set according to income.

New Access Point Grants (May 2005)			
<i>Organization</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Award</i>
South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc.	Cotulla	TX	\$224,032
New Access Point Grants (December 2005)			
Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciano	Clinton	LA	\$650,000
Innis Community Health Center	Innis	LA	\$775,000
Primary Health Services Center	Monroe	LA	\$858,333
Cathoula Parish Hospital District No. 2	Sicily Island	LA	\$666,667
Tensas Community Health Center	St. Joseph	LA	\$400,000
Kiamichi Family Medical Center	Battiest	OK	\$900,000
Pushmataha Family Medical Center, Inc.	Clayton	OK	\$650,000
Fairfax Medical Facilities	Fairfax	OK	\$650,000
Community Health Connections	Tulsa	OK	\$650,000
Shackelford County Community Resource Center	Albany	TX	\$650,000
Alvin Community Health Endeavor	Alvin	TX	\$650,000


Extended Health Care

Continued from page 6

New Access Point Grants (December 2005)			
Fort Worth Northside Community Health Ctr	Fort Worth	TX	\$650,000
Spring Branch Community Health Center	Houston	TX	\$650,000
Northeast Community Health Clinic	Houston	TX	\$650,000
Fourth Ward Clinic dba Good Neighbor Healthcare Clinic	Houston	TX	\$650,000
Midland Community Healthcare Services	Midland	TX	\$650,000
Pasadena Health Center	Pasadena	TX	\$622,550
El Centro del Barrio	San Antonio	TX	\$271,223

*Taken From: HRSA Press Office
April 11, 2005*

Child Support Demonstrations Approved

 On March 15, 2005, HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families Dr. Wade F. Horn announced \$2,958,184 in federal funding to support demonstration projects in Georgia, Kentucky and Texas to promote improvements in child support enforcement efforts.

The grants are awarded under the authority of Section 1115 of the Social Security Act and require that each project be designed to improve the financial well-being of children or otherwise improve the operation of the child support enforcement program. Section 1115 authorizes states to conduct experimental, pilot or demonstration projects likely to assist in promoting the objectives of the Social Security Act.

The goals of the demonstration projects include improving the establishment of paternity and increasing financial support for children as well as improving fathers' relationships with both their children and the mothers of their children. The projects also include efforts to improve couple relationships and reduce the potential for domestic violence. The projects are required to screen participants for domestic violence and refer appropriate individuals for services.

Kentucky will receive \$1 million in federal funding. Texas will receive \$998,184 and Georgia will be awarded \$960,000. The projects will last between two and five years and will be supplemented by private funding. The grants represent additional funding and will not affect the amount of federal funds available to administer child support programs.

*Taken From: HHS News
March 15, 2005*

The Region VI Developmental Disabilities Newsletter is
issued 6 times a year by the
Region VI Administration for Children and Families

*Look for the next Newsletter in **July 2005***

2005 Region VI DD Institute

The Region VI ACF DD Team is planning to host the 2005 DD Institute in the
Fall of 2005. Please stay tuned for more details.

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children & Families
1301 Young Street,
Room 945 / ACF-3
Dallas, Texas 75202-5433

Administration for Children & Families - Region VI

Leon R. McCowan
Regional Administrator

Developmental Disabilities Team
Fax: 214-767-8124

Janice Davis, Team Leader
(214) 767-8075
jdavis@acf.hhs.gov

Sharon Butler, Program Specialist
(214) 767-8093
sbutler@acf.hhs.gov